

Message Text

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47

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /118 W

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R 091640Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1785

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08717

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, CCD, US

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON U.S. CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL

PRESENTATION AT CCD

REF: STATE 115894

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1. ON JUNE 6 WE DISCUSSED U.S. INITIATIVE ON

CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL WITH BARBARA RICHARDS, ASSISTANT HEAD, FCO, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT. SHE ADVISED THAT HMG DOES NOT YET HAVE A FORMAL POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT FOR FORTHCOMING CCD SUMMER SESSION. FCO OFFICIALS ARE STUDYING AMBASSADOR MARTIN'S APRIL 10 PRESENTATION AND WILL BE PREPARING BRIEF TO ENABLE UK DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS.

2. FCO OFFICIALS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED CONTROLS MOST. THIS CONCEPT WILL BE A NON-STARTER IN CCD. LABOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS DISARMAMENT IN GENERAL AND MINISTERS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF STATE ENNALS, HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATIONS IN VERY BROAD TERMS. BUT PARTS OF WHITE-HALL WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ANY UK MOVEMENT TOWARD VOLUNTARY LIMITATIONS ON ARMS EXPORTS ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL GROUNDS. HMG WILL BE PARTICULARLY TROUBLED BY FACT THAT SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARMS EXPORTERS (ESPECIALLY FRANCE) ARE NOT ACTIVE IN CCD AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY SET OF PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THAT FORUM.

3. FCO OFFICIALS REQUEST THAT USG MAKE NO PUBLIC OR CONGRESSIONAL USE OF PRELIMINARY VIEWS REPORTED ABOVE BECAUSE MINISTERS HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED OR TAKEN DECISIONS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION PROBLEM. OFFICIALS WOULD NOT OBJECT IF U.S. SAYS IT HAS RAISED MATTER WITH UK ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS LONG AS WE DO NOT IMPLY THAT UK HAS MADE A RESPONSE.

4. COMMENT. FCO OFFICIALS ARE CLEARLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT POSSIBLE SUCCESS OF U.S. INITIATIVE ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS IN CCD. THEY BELIEVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL SEE INITIATIVE AS ATTEMPT TO DEPRIVE LATTER OF THE SOVEREIGN POWER TO DETERMINE REQUIRED ARMS LEVELS FOR THEMSELVES. ON THIS GROUND THEY PREDICT NO PROGRESS WILL BE MADE. LIKELY UK POSITION WILL BE TO WELCOME ANY MOVE
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TOWARD REGIONAL AGREEMENTS ON ARMS LIMITATIONS AND TO WELCOME DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN THE CCD. BUT UK WILL AVOID ANY CONNOTATION THAT ARMS LEVELS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE SET OR LIMITED BY SUPER POWER OR OTHER SUPPLIER DECISIONS.

RICHARDSON

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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